REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant has carefully considered this application in connection with the Examiner's Action and respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

The Applicant originally submitted Claims 1-27 in the application. The Applicant has amended Claims 1, 2, 10, 11, 19 and 20. Accordingly, Claims 1-27 are currently pending in the application.

I.   Rejection of Claims 1-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,029,164 Birrell et al., ("Birrell") in view of Applicant's Background. In the response filed on November 27, 2002, the Applicant argued that the Examiner's argument is an improper syllogism. In response, the Examiner stated that the syllogism is proper. (Examiner's Action, page 8). The Applicant asserts that the Examiner's argument is still improper and the arguments presented in the response filed on November 27, 2002, are reasserted in their entirety. The Applicant respectfully asserts that the Examiner misunderstands associating hypertext references with a sender of an e-mail message. However, in an effort to further prosecution, the Applicant has amended the independent Claims to more distinctly claim associating a hypertext reference with a sender of an e-mail message.

With respect to the cited art, Birrell does not teach or suggest, among other things, an e-mail program or a system of establishing relationships between hypertext references contained in e-mail messages received by an e-mail program that includes a message parser that locates hypertext

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references in first and second e-mail messages received by the e-mail program and building hypertext messages containing the hypertext references and associations of each of the hypertext references with a sender of the first and second e-mail messages as recited in Claims 1 and 19. Nor does Birrell teach or suggest a method that includes locating hypertext references in first and second e-mail messages received by an e-mail program and building hypertext messages containing the hypertext references and associations of each of the hypertext references with a sender of the first and second e-mail messages as recited in Claim 8. In contrast, Birrell merely discloses parsing e-mail messages into individual words and determining the location each word within the e-mail messages. (Column 7, lines 14-27). Birrell maintains a list of the words and their locations within the e-mail message in order to allow full-text queries. (Column 9, lines 28-36). Birrell does not teach or suggest building hypertext messages that contain the hypertext references located in the e-mail messages. Nor does Birrell teach or suggest building hypertext messages that contain associations of each of the hypertext references with the sender of the e-mail messages as recited in Claims 1, 10 and 19. Therefore, Birrell fails to provide the requisite motivation to develop the Applicant's claimed invention as recited in Claims 1, 10 and 19.

The Examiner stated that the Applicant's Background teaches associating each of the hypertext references with a sender of the first and second e-mail messages. (Examiner's Action, Page 3). The Applicant's Background does not teach associating hypertext references found within an e-mail message with the sender of that e-mail message. The Applicant's Background merely states that e-mail messages can contain hypertext references and the hypertext reference can be selected to cause an Internet browser to display the information associated with the hypertext reference, such as a Web Page. (Applicant's Specification, Page 2, lines 6-14). In addition, the

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Applicant's Background does not teach or suggest building hypertext messages that contain the hypertext references and associations of each of the hypertext references with a sender of the first and second e-mail messages as recited in Claims 1, 10 and 19.   Therefore, the Applicant's Background fails to cure the deficiencies of Birrell and fails to teach or suggest the Applicant's claimed invention as recited in Claims 1, 10 and 19.

Birrell, individually or in combination with Applicant's Background, fails to teach or suggest the invention recited in independent Claims 1, 10 and 19 and their dependent claims, when considered as a whole. Claims 1-27 are therefore not obvious in view of Birrell and Applicant's Background.

In view of the foregoing remarks, the cited references do not support the Examiner's rejection of Claims 1-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). The Applicant therefore respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw the rejection.
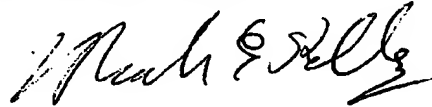
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II.   Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the Applicant now sees all of the Claims currently pending in this application to be in condition for allowance and therefore earnestly solicits a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-27.

The Applicant requests the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney of record at (972) 480-8800 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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